

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 5765

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CH, RO
SUBJECT: A TUMULTUOUS ROMANIAN WELCOME FOR CHAIRMAN HUA

1. HUA KUO-FENG RECEIVED A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME MORNING OF
AUGUST 16 AT START OF HIS FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO
ROMANIA. NORMAL RENT-A-CROWD FOR SUCH OCCASIONS COMPOSED
OF PARTY ACTIVISTS, FACTORY WORKERS, AND SCHOOL CHILDREN
WAS SUBSTANTIALLY SWOLLEN BY THE GENUINELY CURIOUS; VETERAN
BUCHAREST CROWD ESTIMATORS PLACE NUMBER AT MORE THAN FOR
BREZHNEV VISIT IN NOVEMBER 1976 AND ON PAR WITH VISITS OF
DEGAULLE 1968 AND NIXON 1969. WHILE GOR CLEARLY PULLED OUT
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ALL THE STOPS, INCLUDING INNOVATION OF NUMEROUS WELL-
ORGANIZED AND UNIFORMED GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE PERFORMING COORDINATED
QUASI-ATHLETIC MANEUVERS A LA ROSE BOWL (OR
TIEN-AN-MIEN SQUARE), RESPONSE OF SPECTATORS SEEMED TO BE
GENUINELY WARM. STANDARD ROUTE FROM AIRPORT TOOK HUA AND
CEAUSESCU TO PIATA SCINTEIA WHERE BUCHAREST MAYOR ION
DINCA AWARDED HUA THE TRADITIONAL KEYS TO THE CITY, THEN

PAST SOVIET EMBASSY TO PIATA VICTOREI FOR "DANCE OF FRIENDSHIP." (HUA WAS NOT OBSERVED DANCING, HOWEVER, AS BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD HAD). ROMANIAN MEDIA PROVIDED SATURATION LIVE RADIO AND TV COVERAGE, WITH ANNOUNCERS REPEATEDLY STRESSING CLOSE AND FRIENDLY ROMANIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS. AUGUST 16 ISSUE OF OFFICIAL RCP DAILY SCINTEIA CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF HUA, A FULL BIO SKETCH, AND UPBEAT REHASH OF ROMANIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS SINCE CEAUSESCU'S 1971 VISIT TO PEKING, WITH PARTICULAR STRESS ON HIS TRIP LAST MAY.

2. STATE DINNER WILL BE HELD TONIGHT, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR POSSIBLY INTERESTING EXCHANGE OF TOASTS. REMAINDER OF PROGRAM REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE HUA TO BLACK SEA COAST, OIL REFINING CENTER OF PLOIESTI, CARPATHIAN MOUNTAIN RESORTS, AND TRANSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL CITY OF BRASOV.

3. SEVERAL DOZEN WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ARE HERE TO COVER HUA VISIT, INCLUDING ABOUT A DOZEN FROM U.S. MEDIA.

4. COMMENT. AS EXPECTED, ROMANIAN RECEPTION FOR HUA CONTRASTS MARKEDLY WITH RECENT FRIGID CEAUSESCU-BREZHNEV SUMMIT IN CRIMEA (BUCHAREST 5542).
AGGREY

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